
ATTACHMENT I

PROJECT CHRONOLOGY

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GE/HOUSATONIC RIVER PROJECT CHRONOLOGY

- 1903 – General Electric Company (GE) purchases Stanley Electric’s transformer manufacturing facilities located in Pittsfield along East Street.
- 1932 – GE begins to use polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) transformer oils at the Pittsfield, Massachusetts plant.
- 1952 - PCB-contaminated oil is discovered on East Street residential property.
- 1968 - Collapse of a storage tank at Building 68 releases PCB oil into the Housatonic River.
- 1972 – GE installs a thermal oxidizer to destroy PCB-containing liquids.
- 1974 – GE was first issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. To satisfy permit requirements, GE begins the installation of oil/water separators to reduce oil discharge to Silver Lake, Unkamet Brook, and the Housatonic River.
- 1977 - The GE Pittsfield facility discontinued PCB use in the manufacture of transformers.
- August 1980 to June 1981 – GE removes contaminated sludge from the former waste stabilization basin at Unkamet Brook. The basin is filled and capped.
- May 27, 1981 - GE and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) (currently Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection [MDEP]) sign Administrative Consent Order. PCBs and other contaminants in the Housatonic River, Silver Lake, Unkamet Brook, and at the GE facility are to be evaluated. GE is required to propose a sampling and monitoring program for the Housatonic River and for contamination and disposal practices at the facility.
- December 1982 - GE issues Housatonic River Study (prepared by Stewart Laboratories) covering 1980 and 1982 investigations.
- 1982 - Signs warning against consumption of fish, frogs, and turtles are posted along the Housatonic River.

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- December 1982 - Frink Study documents PCB transport and distribution in Housatonic River.
- February 1983 - Harza prepares report documenting September 1982 inspection of dam during repairs by Kimberly Clark Corporation.
- 1984 - Gay & Frimpter U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) issue report demonstrating no impact of Woods Pond sediments on adjacent aquifer.
- March 1984 - GE issues report entitled "Report on Initial Screening of Housatonic River Remedial Alternatives."
- April 1984 - Stewart Laboratories issues report documenting additional investigations performed during 1983.
- May 1984 - GE issues report entitled "Report on Proposed Engineering Evaluation of Selected Housatonic River Remedial Alternatives."
- October 1984 - GE issues 45-Day Interim Report evaluating potential sediment disposal sites.
- February 1985 - GE submits 90-Day Interim Report evaluating river channelization, in situ impoundment, and flow and sedimentation control.
- April 1985 - GE issues Notice of Intent Permit Applications to Towns of Lee and Lenox to allow for Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study activities.
- May 1985 - GE submits 135-Day Interim Report evaluating sediment removal and local disposal, river channelization, in situ impoundment, flow and sedimentation control, and biodegradation.
- May 1985 - GE accepts bids for construction of stop log baffle system at location of existing slots in raceway channel at Woods Pond.
- June 12, 1985 - Town of Lee Conservation Commission issues Order of Conditions providing local approval of Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study. Town of Lenox does not respond.
- July 1, 1985 - DEQE authorizes GE to proceed with Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study.
- July 1, 1985 - GE prepares to initiate Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study; however, access issues prevent study from beginning.

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- September 1985 - Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission retains Malcolm Pirnie to evaluate wet dredging techniques.
- October 1985 - GE submits Revised Notice of Intent document incorporating comments from DEQE regarding possible air emissions.
- 1985 to 1986 - Feasibility study of river remediation alternatives - dredging tabled; biodegradation and dam reconstruction studies proceed.
- May 23, 1986 - EPA and DEQE issue Conditional Approval of 135-Day Interim Report.
- June 1986 - GE responds to DEQE Conditional Approval with conceptual descriptions of monitoring plan.
- August 1986 - GE prepares contract for construction of stop log baffle system at existing sluice gate structure in raceway channel at Woods Pond.
- August 1986 - EPA requests additional details on monitoring plan for Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study at Woods Pond.
- August 1986 - GE issues 135-Day Interim Report Addendum responding to EPA 5/23/86 comments (more details on dredging, biodegradation, and resampling plan).
- September 1986 - GE issues letter indicating schedule delay due to possible dam stability concerns at Woods Pond and failure to reach agreement with pipeline owners and property owner.
- October 1986 - GE retains diver to evaluate timber crib dam abutment.
- October 1986 - GE issues report which documents dam stability concerns.
- October 1986 - GE proposes relocation of stop logs to sluice gate structure.
- November 1986 - EPA commissions U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform Dam Stability review.
- February 1987 - GE collects additional sediment cores for cesium (CS)-137 dating and biodegradation assessment.
- March 1987 - GE transmits to EPA revised report "Velocity Control and Sediment Control Alternatives - Stop Log Baffle System Monitoring Study Overview."

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- April 1987 - EPA issues PRC report which identifies potential local sediment disposal sites.
- April 1987 - EPA issues letter outlining comments on draft monitoring plan for Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study.
- June 1987 - GE issues Work Plan for Housatonic River - Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study.
- September 1987 - USACE issues Woods Ponds Dam, Phase I Inspection Report.
- October 23, 1987 - EPA authorizes GE to proceed with Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study baseline activities.
- October 1987 - GE collects preliminary baseline data for Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study.
- March 1988 - GE issues Housatonic River Remedial Action Selection and Scope of Work for Woods Pond dam rehabilitation.
- June 1988 - GE collects second round of baseline data.
- June 1 to 3, 1988 - GE issues Woods Pond Dam, Phase II Inspection Report.
- June 9, 1988 - GE, Kimberly Clark Corporation, L.B. Corporation, and Valley Mill Corporation sign an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with MDEP to perform an investigation and rehabilitate and/or replace the dam and raceway structures associated with a former power generating facility at the Valley Mill Dam at Woods Pond. MDEP requires the parties signing the ACO to perform this work to prevent future downstream migration of PCB-contaminated sediments that have accumulated behind the dam at Woods Pond.
- August 1988 - Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study First Status Report is issued.
- September 1988 - GE collects third round of baseline data, initiates "Controlled Flow" and water column monitoring.
- October to December 1988 - A closure structure is constructed across the existing raceway channel located east and downstream of the existing Valley Mill Dam at Woods Pond. The work entails the construction of a closed-box sheetpile structure and a mid-channel structure with concrete stoplogs, and placement of dumped and grouted riprap in selected areas to stabilize an embankment between the headrace canal and the river channel. The new closure structure will provide a means of emergency release or reservoir drawdown.

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- October 12, 1988 - GE issues Operation and Maintenance Manual for Woods Pond Dam.
- October 12, 1988 - GE issues Dam Safety Plan and Emergency Action Plan for Woods Pond Dam.
- March 1989 - Issuing of Velocity and Sedimentation Control Pilot Study Second Status Report.
- June to December 1989 - GE initiates and performs extended water column monitoring program in accordance with replacement activities for Woods Pond Dam.
- August 1989 - GE collects fourth round of velocity data.
- September to December 1989 - Construction of a replacement dam at Woods Pond approximately 100 feet downstream of the existing old structure and adjacent to the closure structure constructed the previous year. A crest spillway is constructed in the main river channel in conjunction with a non-overflow section between the headrace channel and the river channel. Construction of the new dam is required to ensure dam safety and integrity over the long term to prevent further downstream migration of PCB-contaminated sediments.
- March 16, 1990 - MDEP establishes GE sites as Public Involvement Plan sites under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, thereby establishing a formal plan for the public to be informed of and involved in response actions.
- April 24, 1990 - Public meeting to present MDEP Draft Public Involvement Plan, site updates, regulatory history, and MDEP Consent Orders.
- May and July 1990 - Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) executes two Administrative Consent Orders with GE to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination in the Housatonic River, Newell Street I, East Street Area I, East Street Area II, Hill 78 Landfill Area, the GE facility, and related sites, in order to evaluate and select remedial alternatives. The Administrative Consent Orders are executed on May 22 and July 2.
- June 1990 - Final Public Involvement Plan is issued.
- 1990 to 1991 - Discovery and capping of PCB-contaminated soils at Allendale School as a Short-Term Measure under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan.

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- February 8, 1991 - EPA issues Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Permit to GE facilities.
- Summer 1991 - GE caps Hill 78 Landfill to prevent stormwater infiltration. The cap is inspected semi-annually. In addition, perimeter wells are installed. They are monitored to track leachate migration.
- October 1991 - GE constructs wastewater treatment facilities to improve the quality of the groundwater and stormwater at the GE facility before its discharge to the Housatonic River.
- 1991 to 1994 - EPA and the MDEP negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate regulatory activities and oversight of cleanup work. The MOU is signed in 1994.
- 1992 to 1999 - Under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, GE samples and evaluates potential imminent hazards on 69 recreational and residential properties in six communities along the Housatonic River's 10-year floodplain. Short-Term Measures are implemented on 19 properties. The measures include removal of PCB-contaminated surficial soils, posting of warning signs, and planting of vegetative barriers to restrict access to wooded areas.
- March 24, 1993 - Public meeting is held by representatives of MDEP, EPA, and GE at the Lenox Town Hall to discuss the status of remedial investigations of the Housatonic River Site.
- March 24, 1993 - Informational meeting is held by MDEP at the Berkshire Athenaeum (Pittsfield) to address concerns and answer questions from property owners who have recently had their floodplain properties tested by GE for PCB contamination.
- April 7, 1993 - Representatives of MDEP hold an informational meeting with owners of affected residential floodplain properties.
- April 14, 1993 - Representatives of EPA and MDEP hold a public meeting at the Berkshire Athenaeum to provide an update on the status of remedial investigations at the GE Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites to explain differences between MDEP's and EPA's regulatory authority (i.e., the Massachusetts Contingency Plan and the RCRA Corrective Action Permit, respectively) and to gather input regarding proposed modifications to the existing Public Involvement Plan.
- July 15, 1993 - Representatives of MDEP and EPA conduct a public meeting at Berkshire Community College to discuss the status of sampling and short-term measures at the floodplain residential properties in Pittsfield and Lenox.

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- July 29, 1993 - Representatives of MDEP and EPA meet with Housatonic River Initiative (HRI) members in Lenox to discuss the status of remediation at the GE/Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites and to introduce new project managers at EPA and MDEP.
- September 23, 1993 - A public meeting is held in Lee, MA, with representatives of MDEP and EPA to discuss PCB toxicity and associated health risks and initiate the environmental health assessment process.
- October 12, 1993 - Representatives of MDEP and EPA hold a public meeting at the Reid Middle School in Pittsfield to discuss the proposed RCRA Corrective Action Permit.
- 1994 - GE invokes dispute resolution proceedings under the MDEP Administrative Consent Order disputing MDEP's requirements for Short-Term Measures on the residential floodplain properties.
- 1994 - EPA RCRA Corrective Action permit becomes final.
- 1994 - The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) initiates studies on exposure to and health effects of PCBs on residents of Berkshire County.
- January 13, 1994 - MDPH presents a health forum at the Berkshire Medical Center. The focus of the forum is the subject of breast cancer in women as related to PCB exposure.
- April 26, 1994 - Meeting held at Reid Middle School to present MDEP's Draft Revised Public Involvement Plan and to provide an update on remedial actions at the GE/Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites.
- April 30, 1994 - MDEP and EPA participate in two public involvement activities concerning the GE/Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites. The first activity is the "Great River Mapping Project," which is sponsored by HRI and attended by schoolchildren and county residents. Participants use a large map of the river as a canvas for portraying their dreams for future use of the river. The second activity is a GE Open House. Tours are conducted of the wastewater treatment plant, the groundwater treatment plant, and the thermal oxidizer.
- May 4, 1994 - Representatives of MDEP and EPA hold a meeting with the Pittsfield City Council to present status updates of the GE/Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites, including the Draft Revised Public Involvement Plan.

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- June 16, 1994 – MDEP, EPA, and GE hold a public meeting in Springfield to present to the public a proposal for the Preliminary Investigation of Corrective Measures which outlines a variety of remedial strategies under consideration for cleanup of the river.
- July 8, 1994 - HRI sponsors a meeting and canoe trip on Woods Pond. Senator John Kerry and representatives of MDEP, EPA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) participate.
- August 4, 1994 - HRI sponsors an educational forum for local officials from the towns that border the Housatonic River. This meeting is held to inform local officials about the cleanup process and to enable them to ask questions concerning the remediation process. Representatives of MDEP and EPA participate.
- 1994 through 1995 - Formation of state and federal interagency workgroup to coordinate remediation and restoration and Natural Resource Damages (NRD) issues and concerns.
- 1994 through 1997 - EPA and MDEP provide HRI with monthly written status reports concerning remedial investigations and activities at the GE/Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites.
- 1994 to 1997 - Agencies participate in numerous workshops, public meetings, and forums to update citizens, property owners, officials and environmental groups and to engage public discussions of assessment work, remedial alternatives, and treatment/ disposal options for facility, river sediments, and floodplain soils.
- May 1994 to Present - MDEP awards Technical Assistance Grant and other account funds to HRI. These funds are used by HRI for technical outreach and education projects, including publishing newsletters and sponsoring educational forums, and working with local citizens to disseminate information about the cleanup process and risks associated with the sites. The technical assistance funding is used to hire a technical consultant to review reports, attend technical meetings, monitor the remediation process, and provide and coordinate review comments on technical site-related reports.
- 1994 to Present - Several meetings are held with the Pittsfield City Council, HRI, and the Tri-Town Board of Health.
- April 13, 1995 – EPA, MDEP, and GE hold an informal poster and question and answer session at the Lenox Town Hall to present data collected to date for the Housatonic River Site (including GE split samples) and to present GE's revised Proposal on the Preliminary Investigation of Corrective Measures for the Housatonic River. Status

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updates for the remaining sites are presented in the form of written summaries.

- 1995 to 1996 - Attempt to engage GE in “global” negotiations fails.
- 1995 to 1996 - HRI, MDEP, and EPA hold several PCB global focus group meetings. The purposes of these meetings are to discuss strategies for expediting certain PCB remediation projects for the GE Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites, to foster cooperation between the agencies and GE, and to solicit public input and commitment in achieving long-range solutions to the problems associated with the sites.
- December 1995 to July 1996 - GE closes the thermal oxidizer.
- 1996 - Discovery of high levels of PCB soil contamination in Deming Street neighborhood at site of former impoundment; residential backyards and riverbank removal work is undertaken.
- January 1996 - Attorney General holds public meeting in Pittsfield to hear community concerns regarding the site. MDEP and EPA participate in the panel.
- March 1996 - During the investigation of the East Street Area 2 site at the GE facility, discovery of a “hot spot” of PCB contamination in Housatonic riverbank soils and sediments adjacent to Building 68. MDEP/EPA order GE to remove PCB-contaminated sediments and bank soils.
- June 11, 1996 - Representatives of EPA and MDEP meet with HRI representatives.
- June 16, 1996 - A public meeting is held at the Northeast Utilities headquarters in Pittsfield by GE, EPA, and MDEP to present GE’s revised Proposal on the Preliminary Investigation of Corrective Measures for the Housatonic River.
- December 18, 1996 - EPA and MDEP order GE to clean up contaminated riverbank soils and sediments adjacent to Building 68. EPA issues a CERCLA order to regulate the work.
- 1997 - EPA proposes listing the GE facility/Housatonic River on the National Priorities List (NPL) under CERCLA (Superfund).
- 1997 - Discovery of contaminated fill on non-floodplain residential properties, city playground, and other properties in several areas of Pittsfield; other properties identified in Pittsfield and other Berkshire

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towns (Richmond, Cheshire) as suspected of receiving fill from GE are under investigation.

- March 27, 1997 - MDEP Housatonic Watershed Outreach Meeting held in Pittsfield City Council chambers.
- April 2, 1997 - MDEP Housatonic Watershed Outreach Meeting held in Great Barrington.
- April 2, 1997 - EPA and MDEP representatives are panel participants at the HRI's Community Meeting held at the Berkshire Athenaeum. MDEP and EPA provide updates on current issues. Meeting includes Tufts University Computer Simulation, EcoLogic presentation on various technologies for PCB remediation.
- May 7, 1997 - Representatives of MDEP, EPA, and GE hold a public meeting at the Northeast Utilities headquarters in Pittsfield to present updates on the Pittsfield Brownfields Pilot Project (a project to facilitate the cleanup and reuse of the GE facility), remediation activities at Building 68, computer mapping of contamination in the Housatonic River, and status updates on remedial investigations at the GE Pittsfield sites. The purpose of the meeting was also to discuss citizens' concerns over PCB-contaminated fill at residential properties in Pittsfield. MDEP announces a toll free number '1-888-VIOLATE' that citizens can call to provide information to MDEP about potential PCB fill properties.
- June 17, 1997 - A public meeting held by MDEP, EPA, and GE at the Pittsfield City Council chambers to discuss residential fill issues.
- June 1997 to July 1999 - GE performs Building 68 removal action under CERCLA Order. Approximately 5,000 cubic yards (yd³) of PCB-contaminated sediments and 2,330 yd³ of PCB-contaminated bank soils are removed. The river channel is armored and restored and the riverbanks are revegetated and stabilized.
- July to August 1997 - EPA conducts community interviews in the Pittsfield area.
- July 1997 - EPA Regional Administrator and MDEP Commissioner meet with constituent groups about PCB contamination at the site. The constituent groups include environmental leaders, community activists, and business leaders.
- August 1997 - EPA Regional Administrator issues a press statement announcing that EPA will start the process for including the site on EPA's NPL and will also start negotiating with GE.

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- August 7, 1997 – EPA, MDEP, and GE hold a public meeting at the City Council Chambers to discuss issues related to properties contaminated by PCBs in fill material received from GE (“residential fill” properties).
- August 7, 1997 – EPA and MDEP publish two fact sheets – one about PCBs and one about questions and answers on residential fill issues.
- August 1997 – MDEP establishes a toll-free telephone hotline for the public to relay information about GE-related fill material to the agencies.
- Fall 1997 – EPA opens a satellite office in Pittsfield and begins Wednesday morning office hours to address the public’s concerns regarding contaminated residential fill. The weekly office hours continue through 1998.
- October 1997 – EPA, MDEP, and GE agree to renew discussions toward overall settlement of remediation, restoration, and redevelopment issues with the assistance of mediator.
- October 1997 – EPA issues a letter and fact sheet from EPA’s Regional Administrator and MDEP Commissioner to residents of Pittsfield regarding the PCB issues.
- October 23, 1997 – The League of Women Voters sponsors a panel discussion related to the toxicological and health effects associated with exposure to PCBs. The meeting is held in Lee, and various health experts participate, including those from DPH and MDEP.
- December 8 and 9, 1997 – Focus Group Meetings are held in Pittsfield, MA, with groups of residents affected by the GE Pittsfield site. The purposes of the Focus Groups are to gather information from residents about their concerns, needs, expectations, and perceptions of EPA; to learn the measures for evaluating EPA’s success in communications and outreach; and to obtain feedback on the written questionnaire currently being tested.
- Winter 1997/1998 – EPA conducts telephone surveys with local residents.
- 1997 through 2001 – GE samples 315 residential properties in Pittsfield for PCB contamination. GE removes PCB-contaminated fill from 164 residential properties.
 - Prior to the commencement of remediation activities, MDEP and EPA provide fact sheets describing the proposed remedial activities to most of the affected neighborhoods. Fact sheets are

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distributed by door-to-door hand delivery and by mail. (August 1997)

- MDEP provides to public interest groups geographic information system (GIS)-generated maps that indicate the locations of the properties that have been sampled.
 - Upon request, MDEP provides public interest groups with updated status lists for residential fill properties that have been sampled and/or remediated to date.
 - In fall 1997, representatives of MDEP and EPA begin holding office hours 1 day per week for residents dealing with the contaminated fill issue. These office hours are established to enable the public easy access to MDEP's and EPA's representatives regarding residential fill-related issues. The office hours continue through mid-October 1998.
 - 1997 to Present - Meetings among GE, property owners of the affected residential fill properties, and MDEP are held. Owners of properties designated for sampling are interviewed and premobilization discussions take place prior to remediation. In addition, MDEP's representatives oversee the cleanup activities on all affected parcels by making visits to each site two or three times per week.
- January 1998 - The EPA Regional Administrator meets with Connecticut environmental and river recreational groups to discuss the proposed NPL listing of the site.
 - January 1998 - EPA and MDEP staff meet with representatives of South Berkshire County communities to discuss the proposed NPL listing of the site.
 - January 1998 - EPA and MDEP conduct a public meeting to discuss the residential fill property issue, and to provide information and a general update on GE/PCB-contaminated sites in the Pittsfield area.
 - February 5, 1998 - The MA Attorney General's Office sponsors a public health workshop at MDEP's regional headquarters in Springfield. The purpose of the workshop is to review past major health studies which are connected with the GE Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites and to discuss the types of additional studies or information that would be useful to address Berkshire County residents' health concerns. Experts in the public health field, members of HRI, homeowners of affected residential properties, and representatives of the MDPH, EPA, and MDEP participate.

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- March 1998 - EPA and MDEP issue an *Environmental Update* for the Berkshires which updates the community on cleanup activities and highlights the process for residential property cleanups.
- March 2, 1998 - EPA and MDEP hold a public meeting at the Pittsfield High School auditorium to provide an update on activities at all the GE/Pittsfield and Housatonic River sites while focusing on investigation and cleanup activities at the residential fill properties.
- March 1998 - The EPA Regional Administrator conducts a series of community meetings with Pittsfield groups to discuss issues related to the site.
- April 6, 1998 - EPA releases "An Action Agenda for Environmental and Economic Recovery in Pittsfield and Berkshire County." The Action Agenda announces EPA's plans for remediation of contamination, restoration of natural resources, and redevelopment of property. In conjunction with releasing the Action Agenda, the EPA Regional Administrator and the MDEP Commissioner conduct community meetings regarding the Action Agenda.
- April 21, 1998 - EPA conducts interviews with residents in neighborhoods where PCB contamination has been found.
- April 29, 1998 - EPA and GE hold a public meeting at Pittsfield High School to discuss GE's request for a modification to the RCRA Corrective Action Permit. The proposed permit modification will allow inclusion within the permit's scope of certain areas near the facility (such as the Allendale School property and certain former oxbows) that were not previously covered under the permit.
- June 3, 1998 - EPA announces Enforcement Order and other steps for PCB cleanup of Housatonic River in Pittsfield; reissues invitation to resume negotiations.
- June 1998 - The EPA Regional Administrator conducts a town meeting to discuss the cleanup of PCBs in Berkshire County.
- June 1998 - The EPA Regional Administrator and the MDEP Commissioner conduct additional community meetings regarding the "Action Agenda for Environmental and Economic Recovery of Pittsfield and Berkshire County."
- June 1998 - EPA issues a letter from the Regional Administrator and an accompanying fact sheet to Pittsfield residents along the Housatonic River on the health risks associated with exposure to PCBs in Housatonic River sediments.

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- July 1998 - EPA, MDEP, GE and the other government agencies involved in the government/GE negotiations host a community session to receive input on the issues being negotiated by GE and the governing bodies.
- August 1998 - EPA begins second round of residential sampling in Pittsfield.
- September 24, 1998 - The EPA Administrator issues statement concerning EPA/GE negotiations.
- September 24, 1998 - After a year of mediated negotiations, an Agreement in Principle is signed among GE, EPA, MDEP, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP), MA Office of the Attorney General, CT Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ), NOAA, U.S. Department of the Interior (U.S. DOI), MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and the City of Pittsfield. The Agreement in Principle formalized the decisions reached during negotiations and established the framework for the Consent Decree.
- October 7, 1998 - EPA releases to the public a Summary of the Agreement (Agreement in Principle) relating to preliminary agreements among the parties, which provides details on Cleanup of Specific Areas, Brownfields Redevelopment and Economic Aid, Restoration of Natural Resources, Recovery of Government Costs, Effect and Form of the Consent Decree, and Enhanced Public Participation.
- October 21, 1998 - The Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Trustees hold a public meeting in Lee, MA, to present an overview of the natural resource damage assessment and restoration process. Representatives of EPA and MDEP attend.
- October 1998 - EPA and MDEP staff meet with community groups to explain the Agreement in Principle regarding remediation, restoration, and redevelopment between the governments and GE for the site.
- November 4, 1998 - EPA and MDEP initiate the Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) to provide a focus for the community to receive information and provide feedback to the agencies and GE on the various cleanup and restoration activities at the site. The CCC is comprised of over 30 environmental, business, and community leaders, representatives of the regulatory agencies, local municipalities, and GE. The CCC meetings are open to the public. The CCC has met monthly since November 1998 on a range of different cleanup and site-related issues.

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- November 1998 - Representatives of EPA and MDEP meet with interested parties from southern Berkshire County at the Stockbridge Town Hall to obtain input on proposed locations for sampling floodplain soils and river sediments for the portion of the river south of Woods Pond.
- November 1998 - EPA staff meets with environmental groups from New York State to explain the Agreement in Principle for the site.
- December 1998 - EPA and MDEP staff meet with selectmen from southern Berkshire County towns to explain the Agreement in Principle.
- December 2, 1998 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss GE's Conceptual Work Plan for the Upper Reach of the Housatonic River (½-Mile) and GE's Source Control Work Plan for the Upper Reach of the Housatonic River (½-Mile).
- December 3, 1998 - Representatives of EPA and MDEP hold a meeting at the Lenox Town Hall to brief southern Berkshire County officials on the specifics of the Agreement in Principle that was signed in September 1998 by the federal and state agencies, the City of Pittsfield, and GE.
- 1998 through 1999 - MDEP and EPA participate in several informational meetings with members of public interest groups such as Citizens for PCB Removal and Get REAL. Representatives of MDEP and EPA also participate in informal neighborhood meetings with residents of impacted areas.
- 1998 to present - EPA conducts extensive studies south of the Confluence of the East and West Branches of the Housatonic River. The studies consist of sampling sediments and bank and floodplain soils, biological and ecological investigations, and modeling to provide data for human health and ecological risk assessments and to predict rates of river recovery under different cleanup scenarios.
- 1998 through 2000 - EPA undertakes an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to evaluate remedial alternatives for cleanup of the 1 ½-mile stretch of the Housatonic River from Lyman Street Bridge to the Confluence of the East and West Branches.
- January 1999 - MDEP and EPA issue a "reach-out" letter to residential property owners who had requested sampling, but for which no credible information presently exists relative to GE-related fill. The letter advises the public that efforts are continuing toward evaluating new data and information in regard to their requests for sampling.

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- January 6, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss the Restoration Planning Process for the Housatonic River. A presentation is given by the Natural Resource Damage (NRD) Trustees. An update on drum removal activities at the Pittsfield Landfill is also provided.
- January 21, 1999 - MDPH holds a public meeting to announce the composition of and mission statement for an expert panel that has been convened to study health effects related to exposure to PCBs. The public meeting is held to obtain input from Berkshire County residents on their health concerns related to contamination at the GE/ Pittsfield and the Housatonic River sites. Representatives of MDEP and EPA attend.
- February 3, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss the Removal Action Work Plan for the Upper ½-Mile Reach of the Housatonic River. GE's consultants make the presentation and respond to questions and comments.
- February 11, 1999 - A special CCC meeting is held to further discuss the Removal Action Work Plan for the Upper ½-Mile Reach and other aspects of the Agreement in Principle, including the on-site consolidation areas. EPA brings in an outside technical expert from USACE to respond to questions from CCC members concerning the use of a cap in the river.
- February 1999 - GE receives feedback from the CCC on its draft Work Plan for remediation of the Upper ½-Mile Reach of the Housatonic River, which has been submitted to the CCC members for review.
- March 1999 to Present - GE continues to implement additional source control measures at East Street Area II, Newell Street Parking Lot, and Lyman Street Parking Lot sites. Measures include adding borings to determine the extent of LNAPL and DNAPL plumes, installing wells to evaluate the efficacy of the source control measures and to recover oil, and installing Waterloo sheetpiling to prevent oil plumes from reaching the Housatonic River.
- March 3, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss the Supplemental Investigation Work Plan for the Lower Housatonic River. EPA presents information on ecological characterization, the human health risk assessment, the ecological risk assessment, the hydrodynamic modeling, and the peer review process.
- May 1999 - EPA announces a public comment period from May 5, 1999, to June 4, 1999, on a proposal for implementation of cleanup work, which GE agreed to implement prior to Consent Decree entry, at the Allendale School, the Upper ½-Mile Reach of the Housatonic

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River, and the On-Plant Consolidation Areas. GE's work plans for these activities are made available to the public for comment. EPA responds to public comments received during the comment period in an October 1999 Responsiveness Summary.

- May 12, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss the proposal for implementation of work at the Allendale School and the Upper ½-Mile Reach of the Housatonic River in Pittsfield, MA. This proposal would allow some time-critical work to take place before the Consent Decree is actually lodged. The Consent Decree lodging and entry process are also explained. The CCC meeting also serves as a public meeting on the proposal and the meeting is advertised appropriately and public participation by non-CCC members is encouraged.
- May 17, 1999 - Public meeting is held to discuss work to be conducted during summer – pre-Consent Decree, ½-Mile Reach, Allendale School, and Consolidation Areas.
- June 2, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to solicit the group's input on future agenda items and evaluate the CCC process.
- June 17, 1999 - MDEP hosts Residential Fill Properties Investigation and Cleanup project public meeting at the Pittsfield City Hall.
- June 23, 1999 - MDEP and EPA participate in a community meeting to discuss the proposed removal action for the Allendale School. The meeting is hosted by the Allendale School Council at the school.
- August 4, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss updates on the work at the Allendale School, preparation of the consolidation areas, work in the ½-Mile Reach, economic development plans for portions of the GE site, and cleanup on the residential fill properties.
- August 1999 - EPA mails to the public an update on the ongoing cleanup of the Allendale School.
- August 1999 - EPA's sampling shows highly elevated concentrations of PCBs in duck breast and liver tissue. The MA Department of Public Health issues a public health advisory for consumption of mallards and wood ducks in the Housatonic River from Pittsfield to Great Barrington (Rising Pond).
- Summer 1999 – GE removes Allendale School property cap and 41,000 cubic yards of contaminated subsurface soils. GE restores and enhances the playground facilities in the fall 1999.

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- October 6, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss the following: a health forum being put on by one of the active citizens groups (Get REAL) with funding in part by MDEP; site updates for ongoing work at the on-site consolidation areas, Allendale School, ½-Mile Reach, and Newell Street Parking Lot; the Consent Decree, the settlement between the MA Attorney General's Office and GE; the excavation of a portion of one of the Newell Street commercial properties by the owner; and the status of testing for contamination in Pittsfield parks.
- October 7, 1999 - A Consent Decree among GE, U.S. EPA, U.S. DOJ, U.S. DOI and NOAA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Connecticut, the City of Pittsfield, and the Pittsfield Economic Development Authority is signed and lodged in District Court. The Consent Decree regulates the investigation and cleanup of the Housatonic River and other GE Pittsfield sites, provides a compensation package for natural resource damages, and provides a brownfields redevelopment project for portions of the GE facility.
- October 8, 1999 - EPA and GE finalize details of cleanup agreement.
- October 26, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss the following: the Consent Decree and Scope of Work overview, a Natural Resource Overview, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' issues concerning the Settlement of the Information Case and Administrative Consent Order (i.e., covenant not to sue, contribution protection). EPA, U.S. DOJ, NOAA, MDEP, and the MA Attorney General's Office attend this CCC meeting to explain the proposed Consent Decree.
- October 26, 1999 - Notice of the proposed settlement is published in the Federal Register, and the United States initiates a public comment period on the settlement and the reissued draft RCRA Permit. Public meetings are scheduled. The comment period is extended twice and closes on February 23, 2000.
- October 28, 1999 - Public comment period for GE/Housatonic River Consent Decree begins; public meetings are scheduled.
- October 30, 1999 - Representatives of EPA and MDEP participate in a forum entitled "Health Risks Associated with PCB Exposures." A panel of PCB experts from across the country give presentations on their research and answer questions.
- October 1999 through Present - GE is removing PCB-contaminated sediments and soils from the riverbanks and channel of the ½-Mile Reach from the Newell Street Bridge to the Lyman Street Bridge on the Housatonic River. The channel floor and lower portions of the

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banks are capped and armored; upper banks are being revegetated. Habitat enhancements are being provided.

- November 3, 1999 – The Natural Resource Trustees present to the environmental community an overview of the natural resources restoration components of the Consent Decree. This meeting is held at the MDEP Watershed Team Office at the Conte Federal Building in Pittsfield and is attended by representatives of EPA and MDEP.
- November 3-4, 1999 - EPA and MDEP staff hold a 2-day office hours session, and meet informally with numerous individuals or groups to explain the proposed settlement.
- November 4, 1999 – An evening forum, sponsored by Get REAL, is held at the Berkshire Medical Center. The forum, entitled “An Update on PCBs in Pittsfield” includes representatives from the University of Massachusetts School of Nursing who present a review of current research on the health effects of PCBs. Representatives from MDEP, EPA, and DPH present updates on the residential fill properties, the GE plant site, and DPH’s public health activities, respectively.
- November 17, 1999 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss how to address residential fill removal issues, to schedule upcoming CCC work resulting from the Consent Decree, and to discuss committee formation by CCC members.
- November 1999 to January 2000 - EPA holds formal public meetings regarding the Consent Decree in Pittsfield, MA; Stockbridge, MA; and Kent, CT. At these meetings, EPA explains the provisions of the Consent Decree, answers questions, and receives additional comments from the public.
- December 2, 1999 - EPA holds a public hearing on the proposed Consent Decree and the proposed reissued RCRA Permit.
- December 9, 1999 - The Natural Resource Damage Trustees hold a meeting in the Stockbridge Town Hall with representatives of the environmental community from Southern Berkshire County.
- 1999 to 2000 - EPA enhances public participation in relation to the Consent Decree by using many additional mechanisms, including the following:
 - Mails a summary of the Consent Decree to the active EPA mailing list for the site.

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- Places the Consent Decree and Statement of Work for the Removal Actions Outside the River (“Statement of Work”), as well as the Summary of the Consent Decree, on the EPA web site devoted to the site.
- Places the Consent Decree and all appendices in four repositories in Berkshire County, as well as with the Berkshire County Chamber of Commerce, the Housatonic River Initiative office, the Housatonic Valley Association office in Connecticut, and upon later request, at three additional public repositories in Connecticut.
- Provides to requesters individual paper copies of the Consent Decree, or paper or CD-ROM copies of the Statement of Work.
- January 20, 2000 - Hosts a Lenders Forum for property owners who would be affected by the work at the GE facility and Housatonic River sites.
- In addition to these more formal mechanisms, through the last several years, EPA and MDEP staff have been available to meet with the community informally at virtually any time.
- January 5, 2000 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss a natural resource damage restoration update, an update on the investigation of the West Branch of the Housatonic River, an update on CCC work related to the Consent Decree schedule, and the results of the Residential Fill Ad Hoc Committee’s meetings.
- January 18, 2000 - Comment period for GE/Housatonic River Consent Decree is extended a second time to February 23, 2000.
- January 18, 2000 – EPA hosts commercial lending forum for the GE Pittsfield/Housatonic River site. The forum is held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Pittsfield to allow property owners to hear lenders’ views on the effects of the proposed Consent Decree on lending. The property owners attending are those who would be affected by the work at the GE facility and Housatonic River sites.
- February 2, 2000 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss updates on the following: ½-Mile Reach; work by the Natural Resource Damage Trustees; demolition work at the GE facility areas known as the 20s, 30s, and 40s complexes; the status of ongoing studies by the MDPH; a report by the Housatonic River Restoration Group (composed of some members of the CCC); and an update from the Residential Fill Ad Hoc Committee.

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- March 1, 2000 - A CCC meeting is held to present and discuss the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the 1 ½-Mile Reach of the Housatonic River. Three independent technical experts answer the public's questions concerning the proposed work.
- April 12, 2000 - A CCC meeting is held to present updates on Consent Decree motions to intervene; demolition activities in the 20s, 30s, and 40s complexes; residential fill property remediation and results of Ad Hoc committee meetings; ½-Mile Reach DNAPL issues; the West Branch sampling proposal; MDPH activities; and Natural Resource Damages.
- May 3, 2000 - A CCC meeting is held to provide updates on the issues covered at the April 12 meeting and also to discuss methods to make the CCC more effective in providing input into the remediation planning process.
- May 23, 2000 - EPA and MDEP host informal meetings with property owners along the Upper 1 ½-Mile Reach of the Housatonic River whose properties will be affected by work under the EE/CA.
- June 7, 2000 - A CCC meeting is held in Stockbridge, MA, to facilitate participation of groups from Connecticut. EPA offers an update on "Rest of River" investigations, human health and ecological risk assessments, and hydrodynamic modeling. Connecticut DEP officials give updates on sediment and biota sampling efforts occurring in Connecticut. Natural Resource Damage updates and GE site remediation updates are also provided.
- June 7 and 8, 2000 - EPA and MDEP host informal meetings with property owners along the Upper 1 ½-Mile Reach of the Housatonic River whose properties will be affected by work under the EE/CA.
- July 20, 2000 - EPA, MDEP, and GE take the CCC on a tour of the GE site in lieu of a monthly meeting. The tour includes Building 19, the Hill 78 and Building 71 On-Plant Consolidation Areas, and the ½-Mile Removal Action Area.
- July 25, 2000 - EPA and MDEP hold public informational meeting at the Berkshire Athenaeum Public Library Auditorium. The purposes of the meeting are to summarize the results of the EE/CA, to update the community on the investigation progress, and to answer questions about the investigations and findings.
- August 18, 2000 - CCC receives updates on EPA, MDEP, and GE activities and a presentation on the newly designed EPA Web site for the GE project. CCC members decide to not meet again until October.

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- August 9, 2000– EPA and MDEP hold public information meeting in Kent, CT, on the EE/CA.
- August 15, 2000 – EPA holds a public hearing to accept verbal comments on the preferred alternative as presented in the EPA fact sheet on the EE/CA.
- October 4, 2000 – Presentation to the CCC on the Consent Decree.
- October 2000 – EPA announces proposed modeling framework for assessing Housatonic River cleanup.
- October 27, 2000 – Federal Judge gives final court approval to the Consent Decree that presents the cleanup plan for the Housatonic River and other GE Pittsfield sites.
- November 1, 2000 – EPA announced its policy regarding homeowners with contaminated property, providing to those homeowners the opportunity to obtain a letter of clarification from EPA that EPA is not pursuing them for liability at the Site.
- November 2000 – Revised Administrative Consent Order (ACO) executed by MDEP and consented to by GE on November 13, 2000. Revised ACO supersedes two 1990 ACOs between MDEP and GE and provides for continued assessment of remediation of off-site properties contaminated with fill from the GE Pittsfield facility (including East Street Area 1-South) and includes a streamlined process for the residential fill properties.
- November 21, 2000 – GE - Pittsfield CCC Connecticut Subcommittee Meeting – The first organizational meeting of the GE - Pittsfield CCC Connecticut (CT) Subcommittee. Meeting discussion included the purpose of this initial meeting, background on the CCC, the establishment of the CT Subcommittee, and a brief introduction to the cleanup issues and the Consent Decree. As a result of input from Connecticut representatives on the CCC, CCC decided to explore the formation of a CT Subcommittee that would meet in Connecticut. The purpose of the subcommittee is to improve Connecticut stakeholders' ability to learn and comment on the cleanup of the Housatonic River and related areas covered by the Consent Decree. EPA, CT DEP, and the CT NRD trustee made presentations to the group and answered questions. The group also discussed the CT Subcommittee mission and procedures and decided that the subcommittee would meet on a quarterly basis.
- November 27, 2000 – EPA issued its Action Memorandum for cleanup of the 1 ½-Mile Reach of the river. The cleanup outlined in the Action Memorandum includes removal from the river and off-site disposal of

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approximately 90,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments and bank soils.

- January 5, 2001 – GE-Housatonic River CCC Meeting – Updates by GE, MDEP, the NRD representative, and EPA. In addition, a presentation was made on the first meeting of the CT Subcommittee. As a result of the subcommittee meeting in Connecticut, the group reached a consensus that the name of the CCC should change to “GE-Housatonic River CCC” without the word “Pittsfield” in the name any longer.
- February 7, 2001 – GE-Housatonic River CCC Meeting – Updates presented by GE, MDEP, the NRD representative, and EPA. Updates included work in the river and the commercial properties and residential cleanup program. EPA announced a 2-week extension of the comment period for Connecticut residents to comment on the Biota Consumption Advisories on the River. There was a discussion whether the West Branch and entire watershed should be posted with consumption warnings. MDEP updated the group on activities at the King Street Dump, in the West Branch of the river, and sediment sampling in Goodrich Pond.
- March 26, 2001 – GE-Housatonic River CCC CT Subcommittee Meeting – EPA presentation on the preliminary evaluation of a wide spectrum of data gathered from the Rest of River Reach and a status report on the ecological characterization of the Connecticut Housatonic River Valley to map habitats, to identify animal use, and to develop baseline conditions that describe the ecological setting. A discussion about production and posting of fish consumption signs on the Connecticut portion of the Housatonic River ensued.
- April 4, 2001 – GE-Housatonic River CCC Meeting – EPA presentation to the group on the Human Health Risk Assessment Process with a discussion following. Updates on site activities by GE, EPA, MDEP, and the NRD representative and an update on the March 26, 2001 Connecticut Subcommittee meeting.
- April 25-26, 2001 – EPA holds public peer review session regarding the Modeling Framework document for the Rest of River. In the peer review, a panel of independent experts reviewed EPA’s proposed framework for modeling the fate, transport, and bioaccumulation of PCBs in the Rest of River.
- May 2, 2001 – GE-Housatonic River CCC Meeting – Updates by GE, EPA, and the NRD trustee. The Peer Review Meeting on the Modeling Framework Design document for the Rest of River was summarized and discussed.

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- June 6, 2001 – GE-Housatonic River CCC Meeting – In lieu of a regular meeting, the CCC was given a tour of the GE site. Brief updates were made by EPA and MDEP, and a GE representative led the site visit, including a tour of work in the ½-Mile Reach of the river, the water treatment plant, and the Hill 78 Consolidation Area.
- June 25, 2001 – GE-Housatonic River CCC CT Subcommittee Meeting – The “Purpose Statement and Operating Guidelines of the CT Subcommittee” were reviewed by the group. EPA updated the group on the analysis of data collected from the Rest of River, including the review of more than 30 reports previously produced by federal and state agencies representing data from the past 30 plus years. A discussion followed the presentation. Updates were presented by CT DEP and the NRD representative.
- July 24, 2001 – GE-Housatonic River CCC Meeting – EPA presentation on the “Ecological Risk Assessment for the Housatonic River: Initial Field Study Results.” The presentation included the role of the ecological risk assessment in the Rest of River project, EPA’s approach, the role of field studies in the assessment, the initial results from the field studies, next steps, and a schedule. A discussion on the Ecological Risk Assessment followed. Updates were made by GE, EPA, MDEP, NRD, and CT Subcommittee.